

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

1 OCTOBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Venezuela

a. Betancourt yesterday began to move directly against the terrorist leaders. He was probably pressured by the military who are indignant over the murder of five national guardsmen this weekend.

b. A number of high Communists and extreme leftists have been arrested. Included in yesterday's bag were a number of congressmen whose immunity the government has hitherto assiduously respected.

c. Police and the armed forces have been put on the alert in connection with the round-up.

d. The government may also have decided on a campaign of reprisals in kind against Castro-backed elements. We have heard of one case where several Molotov cocktails were tossed at the house of a Communist leader.

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2. Brazil

a. Rio remains uneasy. Goulart's scheduled TV and radio talk to the nation was called off without explanation.

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b. We had speculated [redacted]
[redacted] that Goulart
would use the time to try to sooth
the situation.

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c. The Brazilian president
did, however, ask the labor court
to postpone a decision on the legal-
ity of the bank workers' strike.

d. Goulart faces a problem
here which will tax his reputed
skill at political maneuver. Labor
leaders have threatened to call a
general strike if the court rules
the strike illegal, while banks will
have to close if the strike contin-
ues, leaving employers without funds
and today is payday.

3. Dominican Republic

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[redacted] Late press has Bosch
in Guadeloupe [redacted]
[redacted]

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c. [redacted]
Bosch's party and the Castroist 14th
of June movement have united under
the leadership of the latter. [redacted]

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4. Guinea

a. A crisis is shaping up for
Sekou Toure as the sick Guinean
economy continues to sink.

b. The country's most press-
ing problem is a shortage of food
staples. Two food riots have already
taken place, one necessitating the
use of troops.

c. The economy has been hampered,
since Toure's break with France in
1958, by his doctrinaire insistence
on rigid and unworkable central con-
trols. Aid from the Communist coun-
tries amounts to \$127 million but
has contributed little to Guinean
growth while saddling the country
with a large external debt.

d. Toure may announce further
steps to encourage western investment
tomorrow.

5. Communist Asia

a. This year's harvests in Communist China and North Vietnam were again mediocre to poor.

b. A Chinese official [] has said that this year's crop will not be appreciably better than last year's. This is borne out by what we know of growing conditions and peasant morale.

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c. It lends some substance to the fears of Chinese peasants that rations might sag this winter. We do not believe, however, that conditions will be anywhere near as bad as they were in the near-disaster years of 1959-61.

d. In North Vietnam, both the early and late rice crops were sub-standard, the result of adverse weather and the bungling hand of Hanoi.

e. Bad crops in earlier years have had no visible effect on North Vietnamese support of operations in Laos and South Vietnam, and we see no signs that this year's will either.

6. Malaysia

a. The Indonesians have let several chances slip by without more stirring of the Malaysian pot.

b. Sukarno, for example, addressed 10,000 students yesterday without once mentioning the subject, even though he usually goes in for rabble-rousing before such youthful audiences. The Indonesians also announced yesterday they would rebuild the British embassy and renovate embassy residences.

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NOTES

- A. Somalia - The Bloc We do not regard Somali prospects for obtaining large-scale military aid from the Communists as particularly good. The Soviets will probably play along with Somali Defense Minister Daud to some extent, but they are also committed to good relations with Ethiopia and Kenya.

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B.

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- C. Communist China We have not noted anything unusual in the handling of the 14th anniversary of Mao's regime today, either from Peiping or the rest of the Bloc. Greetings from the Soviets and the Eastern European satellites were perfunctory.

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- D. Communist China The first look at photography taken by the Chinese Nationalists last week has turned up, near Sian, three more SAM sites. The pictures also show two installations hard by Lanchou which resemble SAM sites in an early stage of construction. The Sian sites, if confirmed, would bring to 14 the number of completed SAM sites in China. Not all of these appear to be equipped with the launchers, missiles and electronic gear needed to fire missiles.
- E. EEC-USSR The EEC last week sent a note to the Soviets offering tariff reductions on imports of Soviet vodka, crabmeat and caviar, in exchange for abandonment of Moscow's claim to the tariff concessions community members grant each other. Some EEC people view the offer as a first step toward a single trade agreement between the community and the USSR, though they recognize that this will take time.
- F. Honduras President Villeda is confident that Honduras will get through its elections a week from Sunday without a military coup.
- G. Algeria We have no confirmation of press reports that the rising against Ben Bella is growing in strength. He is scheduled to address an important mass meeting at noon Washington time and all employers in Algiers have been asked to release their workers so they can attend.

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